1-1-1961

Citrus growers: don't blow up your colouring rooms

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4

Part of the Fruit Science Commons, Horticulture Commons, and the Other Chemistry Commons

Recommended Citation
Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (1961) "Citrus growers: don't blow up your colouring rooms," Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 4: Vol. 2 : No. 8 , Article 3.
Available at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4/vol2/iss8/3

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 4 by an authorized administrator of Research Library. For more information, please contact jennifer.heathcote@agric.wa.gov.au, sandra.papenfus@agric.wa.gov.au, paul.orange@dpird.wa.gov.au.
Don't Blow Up Your Colouring Rooms

There have been several dangerous incidents associated with the use of acetylene in citrus colouring chambers recently, and growers are warned to take care when using this explosive gas.

Two of these incidents involved explosions, one resulting in the destruction of the room (as shown by the accompanying photographs) and the other very nearly causing severe injury to the operator. The other occasions involved fires in a chamber.

The fault common to both of the explosions was the use of a bright element radiator in the colouring room, especially at the time of maximum gas development.

This occurs just after the carbide has been placed in the water.

It seems that although the amount of gas produced from a normal charge completely dispersed through the chamber will not constitute an explosive mixture, the localised concentration of the gas close to the generator while the reaction is proceeding could result in an explosive mixture being formed.

Obviously it is dangerous to use a heating element in a colouring room charged with acetylene, especially at charging time. It is always advisable to finish heating the room and have the element turned off before introducing the charge.

It is important too that any electrical switches or motors (such as on the fan) should be outside the chamber.

Some growers are haphazard in their use of carbide in colouring rooms, particularly in the amounts they use.

Your local Horticultural Instructor will tell you how much carbide should be used in your colouring room, and how to use it for best results—and safety.
Elders Aerial Spraying Service operates the most modern and efficient aircraft and spraying units in Western Australia.

Elders pilots and teams are trained and efficient. Newly installed radio equipment allows speedy communication with the aircraft in the field.

I.C.I. insecticides and weedkillers used by all Elders spraying units are the most reliable chemicals on the market. Elders service covers the State, protecting crops and pastures against insects and weeds.

**AIRCRAFT**
Most Modern in W.A.

**PILOTS**
Trained Specialists in Aerial Agriculture.

**GROUND UNITS**
Modern and Efficient.

**SERVICE**
Unequalled.

**CHEMICALS**
Reliable—Proven I.C.I. Range.

*FOR RELIABLE AERIAL SPRAYING*

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture of W.A.," when writing to advertisers.